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Security Council

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Identical letters dated 28 October 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I am writing to you with regard to a deeply concerning incident which took place recently in the northern part of Israel along the Blue Line.

At approximately 11.50 a.m. on 26 October 2016, soldiers from the Israel Defense Forces clearing vegetation along the security fence near the Israeli city of Metulah, south of the Blue Line, were fired upon from a vehicle which was on the Lebanese side of the line. As a result, one Israel Defense Forces soldier was injured. The Israel Defense Forces took defensive measures against the source of the fire.

Israel views this incident severely and holds the Government of Lebanon fully responsible for maintaining stability along the Blue Line.

This incident was in clear violation of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006), and is further evidence of the existence and use of unauthorized weapons south of the Litani River.

More than once, in tripartite meetings held with senior officials from the Lebanese Armed Forces, the Israel Defense Forces and the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), the Israel Defense Forces has warned that vehicles and suspicious individuals approaching the Blue Line cause dangerous tensions in the area.

It should be noted that Hizbullah conducts intensive intelligence gathering activities on a daily basis along the Blue Line. They do so by using civilian vehicles and operatives dressed in civilian clothes to patrol along the Blue Line. The vehicle from which shots were fired at Israel Defense Forces troops operated in a similar manner.

Israel wishes to maintain the calm along the Blue Line and continues to coordinate with UNIFIL in order to minimize the potential for friction.

Israel again demands that any armed or suspicious activity along the Blue Line cease immediately. Such activity only raises tensions in the area, and may lead to an escalation.

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I call on the Security Council to demand that the Government of Lebanon abide by its commitment under Council resolution 1701 (2006).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Danny **Danon**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative